

Appl. No. 10/729,359

Amendment dated May 11, 2005

Further amended June 1, 2005

Response to Office Action of January 12, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

The claims currently pending and as amended follow;

1. (Currently amended) A blower assembly for providing continuous positive airway pressure to a patient comprising
an inlet muffler box which receives a turbulent stream of air which is directed along an air pathway comprising a first perforated tube, whereby the stream of air exits the tube through the perforations thereof and is directed around a first divider and a second divider and a third divider, lengthening the air pathway, whereby the stream of air and is thereby transformed into an approximately laminar stream of air;
a blower box comprising a centrifugal fan; and
an outlet muffler box comprising a perforated tube for receiving the stream of air through the perforations thereof, the stream of air having passed the third divider and;
connected to a hose leading to the patient.
2. (Currently amended) The blower assembly of claim 1 wherein the interior surfaces walls and baffles are coated with an anechoic material.
3. (Original) The blower assembly of claim 1 wherein the air pathway is reduced in cross sectional area from that of the hose leading to the patient.
4. (Original) The blower assembly of claim 3 wherein the cross sectional area of the air pathway is 20% to 50% smaller than that of the hose leading to the patient.
5. (Original) The blower assembly of claim 3 wherein the cross sectional area of the air pathway is 25% to 35% smaller than that of the hose leading to the patient.
6. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The inlet muffler box ~~of claim 1~~ which comprises
a first perforated tube having a sealed end distal to an inlet orifice which receives a turbulent stream of air through the orifice;
a first divider placed along the length of the first perforated tube so as to direct the stream of air around the first divider thereby lengthening the air pathway;
a second divider placed on the opposite wall from the inlet orifice;
a second perforated tube having a sealed end distal to an orifice; and
a third divider along the length of the second perforated tube so as to direct the stream of air around the third divider, and
an orifice opening to the blower box.

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7. (Original) The inlet muffler box of claim 6 wherein the perforated tubes are of approximately equal length and each of the dividers is about 60% of the length of the perforated tubes.

8. (Currently amended) A blower assembly for providing continuous positive airway pressure to a patient comprising:

an inlet muffler box which receives a turbulent stream of air which is directed into a first perforated tube with a sealed end, whereby the air enters the muffler box through the perforations in the first tube, is directed along an air pathway by a first divider placed along the tube, is diverted by a second divider placed on the wall of the box opposite to the first perforated tube, is further diverted by a third divider placed along a second perforated tube with a sealed end, ~~whereby~~ thereby transforming the turbulent stream of air into a laminar flowing stream of air which then passes through the perforations in the second tube into a blower box; and a blower box comprising a centrifugal fan and an outlet muffler box connected to a hose leading to the patient.

9. (Canceled) The blower assembly of claim 1 or 8 wherein the outlet muffler box comprises the inlet muffler box of claim 6.